Remarks:

The preliminary amendment is being filed in an effort to present an application in proper U.S. format and to present claims in proper U.S. claim idiom for examination.

The newly entered claims are fully supported in the original claims and in the claims of the international application PCT/EP2004/050720 and in the German priority application 103 20 714.7.

An early action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

For Applicants

WERNER H. STEMER REG. NO. 34,956

WHS:tk

December 17, 2004

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